

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in application.

Claim 1 (Currently amended): An image reading apparatus, comprising:

- an image sensor adapted to read an image of an original;
- a document feeder adapted to feed said original to a platen;
- a detector adapted to detect presence/absence of dust [[and/]] or dirt on said platen; and
- a controller adapted to notify the presence of dust [[and/]] or dirt on said platen in response to the detection of presence of dust or dirt by said detector, and clear the notification ~~via a notification unit, and allow the read-while-feed operation is inhibited.~~

~~document feeder for feeding an original to the platen,~~

~~wherein said controller determines that dust [[and/]] or dirt on the platen is removed in response to an opening operation of the document feeder.~~

Claims 2 - 3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when said detector does not detect dust [[and/]] or dirt at least at one of [[the]] a plurality of predetermined positions, said controller controls to perform a read-while-feed operation, in which an original is read while being fed by said image sensor placed at a fixed position, at the position where no dust or dirt is detected.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said controller controls said detector to perform detection after a read-while-feed operation in which an original is read while being fed by said image sensor placed at a fixed position.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein if said detector detects dust or dirt at all of [[the]] a plurality of predetermined

positions, said controller notifies the presence of the dust or dirt on the platen ~~via the notification unit~~ right after the detection.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein if said detector detects dust or dirt at all of ~~[[the]]~~ a plurality of predetermined positions, said controller notifies the presence of the dust or dirt on the platen ~~via the notification unit~~ in advance of a reading operation of an original.

Claim 8 (Canceled):

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The image reading apparatus according to claim 5 further comprising a memory adapted to, when said detector does not detect dust ~~[[and/]]~~ or dirt at least at one of ~~[[the]]~~ a plurality of predetermined positions, store the position having no dust or dirt,

wherein said controller controls to perform the read-while-feed operation at the stored position.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said apparatus is capable of performing a stationary reading operation in which an original is held at a fixed position on the platen and read while moving ~~[[an]]~~ said image sensor,

and wherein if said detector detects dust or dirt at all of ~~[[the]]~~ a plurality of predetermined positions, said controller sets to perform the stationary reading operation.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said controller turns on a flag indicative of inhibition of ~~[[the]]~~ a read-while-feed operation ~~upon inhibiting~~ to inhibit the read-while-feed operation in which an original is read while being fed by said image sensor placed at a fixed position in a case where dust or dirt is detected by said detector, and turns off the flag upon allowing the read-while-feed operation.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The image reading apparatus according to claim 11 further comprising a flag determination unit for determining on/off of the flag indicative of inhibition of the read-while-feed operation,

wherein said apparatus is capable of performing a stationary reading operation in which an original is held at a fixed position on the platen and read while moving an image sensor,

and wherein said controller controls to perform [[:]]the stationary reading operation when said flag determination unit determines that the flag is on, and controls to perform the read-while-feed operation when said flag determination unit determines that the flag is off.

Claim 13 (original): The image reading apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising an operation unit adapted to designate disabling of said detector,

wherein said controller disables said detector in response to the designation by said operation unit.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The image reading apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising a size detector adapted to detect a size of an original,

wherein plural sets of positions are prepared for different sizes of originals to be read ~~as said plurality of predetermined positions~~, and said controller controls said detector to perform the detection at the a plurality of predetermined positions depending upon the detected size of the original.

Claims 15 - 25(Canceled).

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): A control method for controlling an image reading

~~apparatus capable of performing a read-while-feed operation in which an original is read while being fed by an image sensor placed at a fixed position, comprising:~~

~~reading an image of an original;~~

~~feeding said original to a platen;~~

~~detecting presence/absence of dust or dirt on [a] said platen; and;~~

~~inhibiting the read-while-feed operation in a case where dust or dirt are detected at all of [[the]] a plurality of predetermined positions;~~

~~notifying the presence of dust [[and/]] or dirt on said platen in response to the detection of presence of dust or dirt, and clearing the notification in response to an opening operation of a document feeder, via a notification unit in a case where dust or dirt are detected at all of [[the]] a plurality of predetermined positions;~~

~~—————determining whether or not dust or dirt on the platen is removed in a state that the read-while-feed operation is inhibited; and~~

~~—————allowing the read-while-feed operation when removal of dust or dirt on the platen is determined;~~

~~—————wherein the image reading apparatus comprises a document feeder for feeding an original to the platen, and it is determined that dust or dirt on the platen is removed in response to an opening operation of the document feeder.~~

Claim 27 - 28 (Canceled).

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): The control method according to claim 26 further

comprising controlling, when no dust or dirt is detected at least at one of [[the]] a plurality of predetermined positions, to perform [[the]] a read-while-feed operation, in which an original is read while being fed by an image sensor placed at a fixed position, at the position where no dust or dirt is detected.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The control method according to claim 26, wherein the detection of dust or dirt is performed after a read-while-feed operation in which an original is read while being fed by an image sensor placed at a fixed position.

Claim 31 (Original): The control method according to claim 26, wherein the notification of the presence of the dust or dirt on the platen is performed right after the detection.

Claim 32 (Original): The control method according to claim 26, wherein the notification of the presence of the dust or dirt on the platen is performed in advance of a reading operation of an original.

Claim 33 (Canceled).

Claim 34 (Currently Amended): The control method according to claim 30 further comprising:

storing, when no dust or dirt is detected at least at one of [[the]] a plurality of predetermined positions, the position having no dust or dirt; and

controlling to perform the read-while-feed operation at the stored position.

Claim 35 (Currently Amended): The control method according to claim 26, wherein the image reading apparatus is capable of performing a stationary reading operation in which an original is held at a fixed position on the platen and read while moving an image sensor,

further comprising setting, if dust or dirt is detected at all of [[the]] a plurality of predetermined positions, to perform the stationary reading operation.

Claim 36 (Currently Amended): The control method according to claim 26 further comprising:

turning on a flag indicative of inhibition of [[the]] a read-while-feed operation ~~upon inhibiting~~ to inhibit the read-while-feed operation in which an original is read while being fed by an image sensor placed at a fixed position in a case where dust or dirt is detected by a detector; and

turning off the flag upon allowing the read-while-feed operation.

Claim 37 (original): The control method according to claim 36, therein the image reading apparatus is capable of performing a stationary reading operation in which an original is held at a fixed position on the platen and read while moving an image sensor, further comprising:

determining on/off of the flag indicative of inhibition of the read-while-feed operation;

controlling to perform the stationary reading operation when the flag is on;
and

controlling to perform the read-while-feed operation when the flag is off.

Claim 38 (original): The control method according to claim 26, wherein the image reading apparatus comprises an operation unit adapted to designate skipping the detection of dust or dirt,

further comprising skipping the detection of dust or dirt in response to the designation by said operation unit.

Claim 39 (Currently Amended): The control method according to claim 26 further comprising detecting a size of an original,

wherein plural sets of positions are prepared for different sizes of originals to be read as said plurality of predetermined positions, and the detection of dust [[and/]] or dirt is performed at a plurality of predetermined positions depending upon the detected size of the original.

Claims 40 - 54 (Canceled).